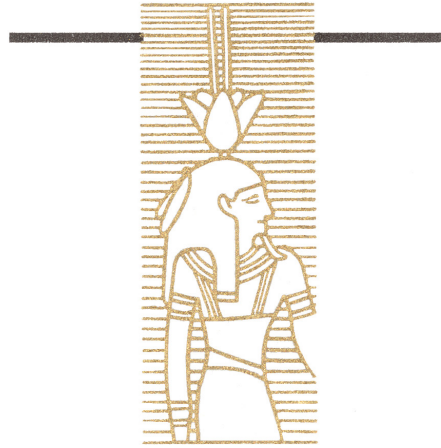




BARAKAT
MIRROR OF ALL AGES & CULTURES



ANCIENT GLASS



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Foreword

Glass has been one of the materials that have arisen the highest fascination in me. While the origin of glass is lost in the mists of history, the legend transmitted by Pliny the Elder says how the invention of glass happened on the sandy shores of Phoenicia, near the Hadr Alu river, when some ancient mariners used chunks of soda to support their kettles on the beach. After they had removed their kettles and their pots, they saw what Pliny calls “a noble, shining, semifluid substance”: glass.

Glass has fantastic qualities: it absorbs, transmits, reflects, and radiates the light. It is therefore a unique material as it has the ability to become almost ‘soaked’ in light. We can still be fascinated today by these ancient vessels: their elegance, fragility, and the iridescence often associated with archaeological glass, render them objects of extraordinary beauty and interest. To our society in the 21st century, when glass is a common feature in our daily lives, it may seem extraordinary how immensely valuable glass was in antiquity: difficult to produce, difficult to decorate, difficult to transport, for a long period it was associated only with the elites.

Furthermore, glass embodies also one of the most strong and profound instincts in human soul: the constant tendency to evolve, improve, refine. Across this catalogue you’ll read about different technologies for the production of glass. They account of the mastership and ability of extraordinary yet anonymous craftsmen, people whose existence would be completely lost in the mists of history if the products of their genius had not survived.

We hope that these artefacts will be of interest to you as much as they have been to me.

Fayez Barakat
President



INTRODUCTION



The history of glass making before the Industrial revolution can be separated in two stages: in the first, which began in the 3rd millennium BC and ended in the period from 100 to 50 BC, craftsmen discovered how to transform raw materials into glass and how to make vessels and other objects either with moulds or by forming a molten glass around a removable core. Both techniques were labour-intensive and were seldom made in big quantities. In the second stage, beginning in the 1st century AD in the Syro-Palestinian region, glass workers found that molten glass could be formed by inflation and manipulation with tools. Glass blowing enabled them to make quickly a wide range of shapes, thus widening its market. However, after the 2nd century AD, glass is generally found in a more confined area. The change appears to have taken place under the Flavian Emperors (69-96 AD), an era that in many ways represents a watershed in the history of glass making. It is from this time onwards that glass blowing in the East and the West developed along independent lines, the only exception being fine tableware decorated with special techniques, which was probably due to the still unifying factor of the Roman Imperial administration.

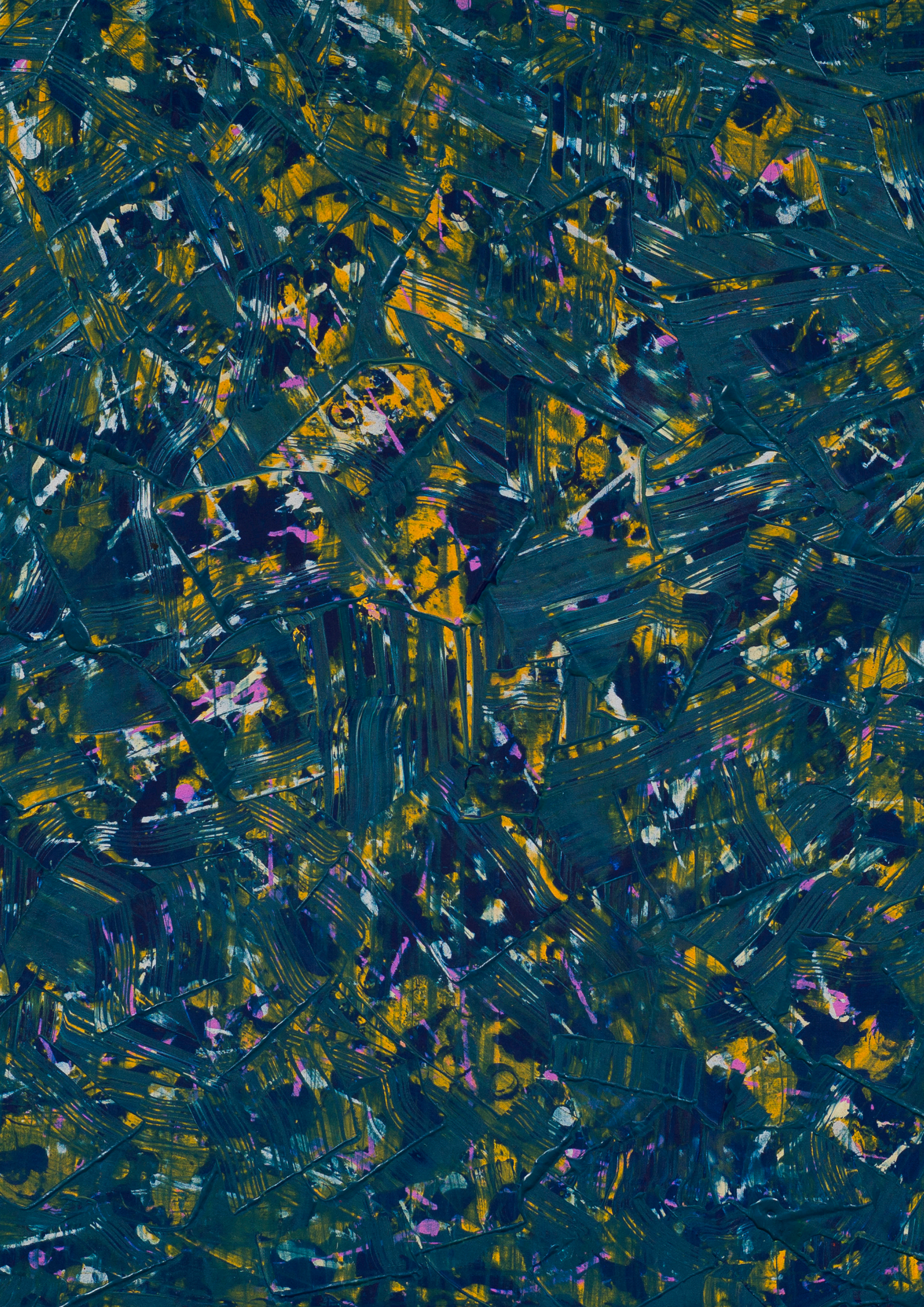
Yet, the most prolific period in the history of glass in the Eastern Mediterranean was during the late Roman Empire, when Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Cyprus, Asia Minor and the north Pontic region all had flourishing glass industries. With the increased demand for glass, regionalism became the dominant factor in the production of glass vessels. Marked regional differences existed not only between the glass made in Syria, Jordan and Palestine, but even between different parts of Palestine (inland vs coast; Galilee and Phoenicia vs Judea). The glass industries of these regions experienced a prolonged period of growth, and the late Roman and early Byzantine period were by far the most important not only in terms of absolute output but also in terms of typologies used. Only during this period, glass was finally used by different strata of societies, sometimes even replacing pottery for certain functions.

The Palestinian glass industry flourished from the 4th to the early 5th century, following the rule of the Roman emperor Diocletian (284-305), when the region enjoyed a time of relative peace in spite of economic instability. When Constantine the Great finally emerged as sole ruler in 324, Palestine benefited from the fact that he targeted Jerusalem and the Holy Land as main recipients for his reconstruction program. Exempted from personal taxation by an Imperial edict in 337, a large number of skilled craftsmen profited greatly from the economic boom.

The glass industry in the Early Islamic Period was initially a continuation of older traditions. Following the rise of the Abbasid Caliphate in 750 AD, the capital of the Islamic world was moved from levantine Damascus to Baghdad in Mesopotamia. This led to a cultural shift away from the influences of Classical traditions, and allowed for the development of a more pure 'Islamic' expression, which nevertheless drew inspiration from the late Sasanian tradition.



Sand-Core Aquamarine Glass Amphoriskos - GF.0103



S A N D C O R E G L A S S



Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - SK.038

Core-forming is the most ancient technique for the production of glass vessels. It consisted in the winding of semi-fused rods or threads of glass around a central core. The core was formed around a metal rod that was held during the vessel's preparation. Though this central core could have been made of different materials (clay, organic materials, etc.), often it was made of sand. Sand was particularly apt for this use, both for its stability at the temperature of the semi-fused glass and for its wide availability in glass-producing areas. After the basic form had been shaped around a core, the vase or vessel was further refined and decorated. The decoration was added by winding thin trails of various colours around the vessel and working them with a comb.

Finally the vessel was rolled on the surface of a smooth stone tablet and the trails were marvered into the walls, and when the glass had cooled down the central core was scraped out.

The origin of this technique is lost in the mists of time. While an origin in the mid second millennium BC in northern Mesopotamia and northern Syria seems probable, the technique spread rapidly, probably through trade routes. Core-forming reached Egypt, where under Eighteenth Dynasty (1550 - 1290 BC) stunning vessels were produced, epitomising the technological advancements, craftsmanship, and aesthetic refinement during one of the 'Golden Ages' of ancient Egypt. In the seventh century B.C., the manufacture of sand-core vessels was revived in large scale in Egypt and the Near East. Although the techniques and colours suggest imitations of the New Kingdom vessels, new non-Egyptian forms were introduced to reflect the development of Greek pottery shapes. The diffusion of Greek-inspired shapes attests the crucial importance of trade contacts between Egypt and the Hellenic world.

Core-forming was a highly skilled and time-consuming process that resulted in works of extraordinary beauty. Its use continued well into the Roman Imperial period, when it was finally substituted by the technique of glass-blowing.

Oinochoe

Having survived ages of time, this delicate dark blue glass trefoil oinochoe radiates with its brilliant colours and skillful artistry. The bright yellow and light turquoise decoration on deep blue seems to sparkle. The vessel is core-formed in an ovoid shape, with a cylindrical neck and flaring mouth. A single arched handle is attached to the shoulder and neck. The ribbed body is decorated in an opaque turquoise and yellow trailing, combed into a zigzag pattern with horizontal lines, above and below. The slim neck is encircled with opaque yellow trailing, and the rim is also edged with yellow.

What kind of rare or aromatic potion could this colourful oinochoe have contained so long ago? In whose gentle hands could it have been treasured? Only ancient time and history hold answers to such questions. But we do know that this delicate oinochoe was treasured and cared for, and it is certain that its beauty and history will be valued for times to come.



Sand-Core Formed Glass Oinochoe - GF.0048

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 6th Century BC to 5th Century BC

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 2.25" (5.7cm) wide

£12,600.00



Dark Blue Glass Trefoil Oinochoe - GF0334

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 600 BC to 300 BC

Dimensions: 3.625" (9.2cm) high x 2.25" (5.7cm) wide

£14,500.00



Sand-Core Formed Glass Oinochoe - OF.120

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 6th Century BC to 5th Century BC

Dimensions: 3.3" (8.4cm) high

£9,000.00

The name 'alabastron' is derived from the fact that many similarly-shaped perfume vessels were made from alabaster. This glass example was made by coating a core, probably made of clay mixed with animal dung around the end of a metal rod, with molten glass. This alabastron has a wide everted neck, an elongated ovoid body and a concave base. Attached on the upper part of the body are two small handles. Around the middle of the body is a zig-zag feather-like pattern in alternating white and yellow.

Vessels such as this one were produced until the first century B.C. and were designed to contain perfume and cosmetics.

Sand-Core Formed Glass Alabastron - X.0617

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 6th Century BC to 5th Century BC

Dimensions: 5.75" (14.6cm) high x 1.75" (4.4cm) wide

£8,000.00

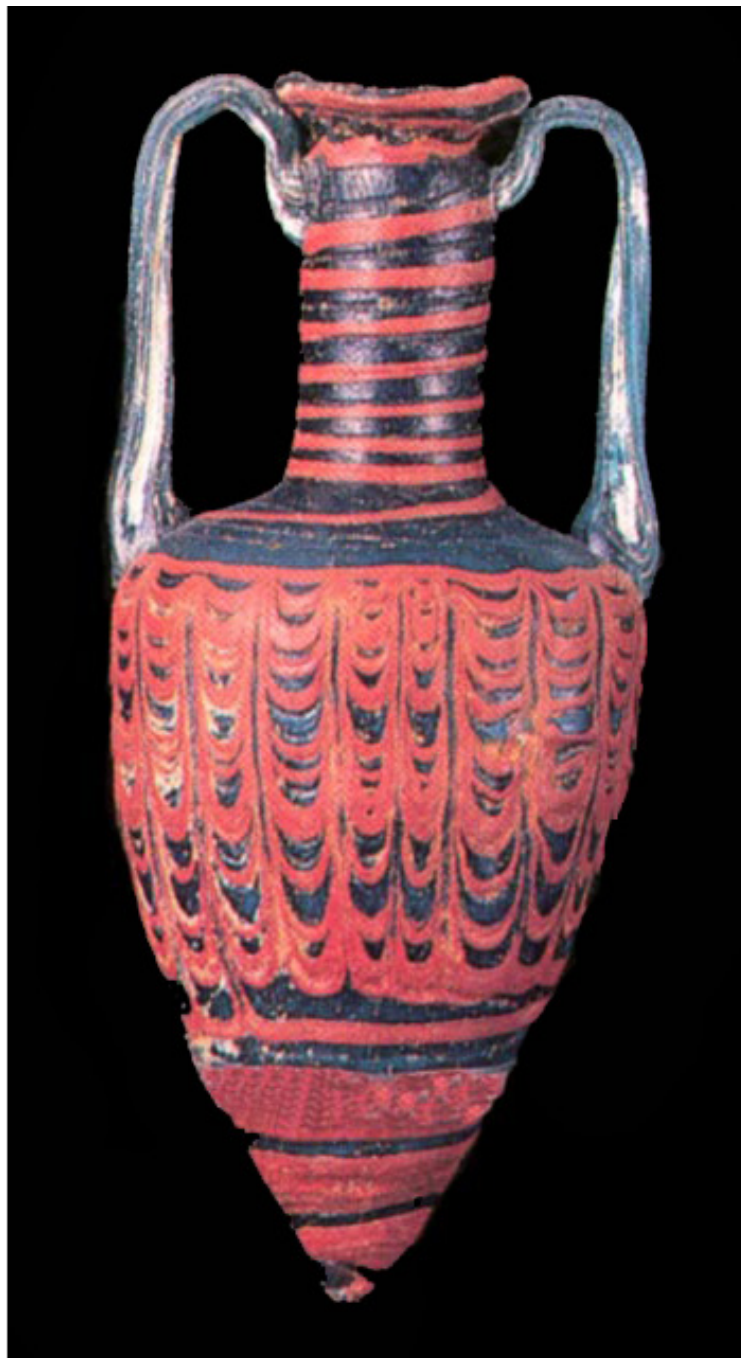


Amphoriskos

The late seventh century B.C., an extensive glass industry developed on the island of Rhodes, under the influence of Phoenician and Mesopotamian craftsmen. New shapes were introduced imitating Greek vessels. They were used as containers for cosmetics and perfumes, and their distribution attests to the trade routes followed by the Greeks and Phoenician merchants.

This translucent glass amphoriskos is fashioned on a core, with a tapering ovoid body, a cylindrical neck and an out-splaying rim. Two handles are attached to the shoulder and the top of the neck. The decoration consists of white and red spiraling trailed marvered bands starting at the rim and continuing to under the shoulder, where they are combed into an uneven pattern of feathers and continue with spirals again round the bottom.

The amphoriskoi are notable for their use of translucent glass for the handles and the buttons on the tips of the bases.



Early sand-core aquamarine glass amphoriskos with tall, cylindrical neck, and two high swung handles. The vessel is decorated with a continuous red spiral trail from rim to shoulder and with a festoon pattern on the body.

Sand-Core Aquamarine Glass Amphoriskos - GF0103

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 500 BC to 300 BC

Dimensions: 5" (12.7cm) high

£48,000.00



This gorgeous blue core-formed glass amphoriskos is a masterpiece of ancient glass. Thin white threads have been wound across the body and the neck of the work, creating a charming decorative effect. Two handles along the neck and shoulders of the vessel would have allowed the piece to have been hung and would have aided in the handling of the piece. Vessels such as this were considered precious objects, not only because the high cost of the manufacturing process and their delicate nature; but also because they were used as containers for expensive perfumed oils and cosmetic powders. Glass containers had a natural advantage over their metal and terracotta counterparts: that the contents could be viewed from the outside. Over two millennia ago, this glass amphoriskos would have held fragrant unguents inside.

Sand-Core Blue Glass Amphoriskos - X.0185

Origin: Lebanon

Circa: 300 BC to 200 BC

Dimensions: 6" (15.2cm) high

£36,000.00



This *amphoriskos* has a flaring rim and a long cylindrical neck, an elongated piriform body and a knobbed base. No handles are attached to it. A red and white trail wound spirals around the lower part of the neck, and a feather-like design spirals around the upper neck and body.

Amphoriskoi are the most common types of core-formed vessels produced during the Hellenistic period.

Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - X.0619

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century BC to 1st Century BC

Dimensions: 6" (15.2cm) high x 2" (5.1cm) wide

£48,000.00



Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - GF.0347

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century BC to 1st Century BC

Dimensions: 6" (15.2cm) high

£18,000.00

Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - SK.038

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 600 BC to 300 BC

Dimensions: 3.5" (8.9cm) high

£19,800.00





Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - X.0618

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 6th Century BC to 5th Century BC

Dimensions: 2.75" (7.0cm) high x 1.75" (4.4cm) wide

£12,000.00



Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - SK.039

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century BC to 1st Century BC

Dimensions: 5.5" (14.0cm) high

£18,500.00

Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - X.0616

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century BC to 1st Century BC

Dimensions: 5.25" (13.3cm) high x 2.5" (6.4cm) wide

£18,000.00



Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - G.0240

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century BC to 1st Century BC

Dimensions: 6.25" (15.9cm) high x 2" (5.1cm) wide

£6,300.00



In the late seventh century B.C. an extensive glass industry developed on the island of Rhodes, under the influence of immigrant craftsmen. The new shapes imitated Greek vessels. Vessels of this type served as containers for cosmetics and perfumes.

This amphoriskos is core formed in an ovoid shape, it stands on a pointed foot with a cylindrical neck, everted mouth and rounded rim. The vessel is decorated with opaque yellow and turquoise trailing combed into a zig-zag pattern, with horizontal lines above and below. This pattern continues gracefully draped over the shoulder. The rim is edged with turquoise trailing, and the twin handles are attached to the shoulder and neck.

These vessels continued to be produced until the first century B.C.

Sand-Core Formed Glass Amphoriskos - GF.0333

*Origin: Eastern Mediterranean
Circa: 6th Century BC to 5th Century BC
Dimensions: 2.625" (6.7cm) high*

£9,000.00





ROMAN GLASS



Roman Glass Vessel (Detail)- FF.066

The Roman period sees the development of a new technology in glass making: glass-blowing. While the rudiments of the glass-blowing technique were probably known from the 5th century BC, we start seeing numerous examples from the 1st century BC. The technique was probably perfected by the inhabitants of Sidon (in modern day Lebanon), and from there it spread across the Roman Empire. The rapid spread of this technology is probably to be associated with the period of the Reign of Augustus, and with the seamless and intensive trade across the Empire in this period following the end of the crisis of the Civil and Social Wars.

Originally, a piece of glass would have been modelled into a tube (tube-blown glass) closed on one end, which would have been blown and worked into the desired shape. The tube-blown technique was in use until the 2nd or 3rd century AD, when it was gradually substituted by the most advanced technology in ancient glass-making: the bubble-blown technique. This consisted into blowing air through a tube into a sphere of fused glass, inflating it exactly like a soap bubble. This fantastic technology allowed ancient craftsmen to realise vessels of unprecedented thinness. Some of these vessels are known as ‘paper-thin’, and survive virtually always in tiny fragments.

Another important technology, invented as well by the craftsmen of Sidon, was the mould-blown technique, which consisted in blowing a bubble into a mould to produce a correct and standardised form, often associated with a series of surface decorations.

Roman glass with its transparency embodies a new concept of elegance in the ancient world, linked to lightness and the ability to transmit light. It is not a coincidence that the Roman imperial period sees also the spread of glasses for windows, allowing an unprecedented amount of natural light to enter in the daily lives of the people.



Roman Glass Jug - X.0359

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 50 AD to 150 AD

Dimensions: 6.69" (17.0cm) high x 5.51" (14.0cm) wide

£25,000.00



Wide cylindrical clear light blue glass jug with rounded shoulders and very short neck, a constriction below, muff-shaped profiled rim, horizontally flanged, slightly concave base. The handle wide and flat with dense ribs, bent at a right angle.

Although the precise origins of glass are unknown, we do know that the revolutionary technique of glassblowing was invented in the Syrio-Palestine region around 50 B.C., thousands of years after the discovery of glass. Before, glass was made through labor-intensive techniques that limited the vessels to the wealthy elite. However, glassblowing allowed vessels of larger sizes to be produced on a much larger scale and at a markedly faster pace. With the Roman conquest of the Eastern Mediterranean, glassblowing was imported into the heart of Rome along with its Phoenician and Judean makers.

As the technique disseminated throughout the empire, glass vessels became much more affordable, transforming what was once a luxury item into a domestic staple. Ordinary people possessed glass objects for the first time. As the technique became more refined and the artists bolder and more experimental, a class of highly intricate vessels that were created by master craftsmen over long periods of time came into being. Based on the labor involved, the beauty of the design, and sometimes the hue of the glass (red glass, for instance, was achieved by adding gold dust to the composition, making this color very expensive and rare) these vessels could only be afforded by the wealthy elite.

Blown-glass vessels came in a plethora of shapes and sizes, and in a broad assortment of hues that changed according to the specific chemicals that were added. In fact, the glassblower was limited only by his imagination and the strength of his arms. Larger vessels were used to store a wide variety of household items, mainly liquids and grains. Smaller, more delicate works were used to hold precious commodities such as perfumes, unguents, medicines, and spices. The transparent nature of glass was a great advantage, since the contents of a vessel could be easily determined without having to open the container, possibly spoiling the perishable goods inside.

This large blue/green glass vessel was found in En Gedi, Israel. The Eastern Mediterranean territories remained the center of glass manufacturing, where the finest examples were produced, even as the technique spread across the empire. The beauty and elegance of this vessel reflects the skills of its maker. The wide, slightly bulging, cylindrical body is echoed by the short neck, which is crowned by a flared rim. A broad handle has been attached at the neck and shoulder of the vessel. The size of this glass piece suggests that it was used to store and serve water or wine. Once, it would have rested on the dinner table of an Ancient Roman household somewhere in the Holy Land.



Iridescent Cream Coloured Dish - OF.150

Origin: Sidon/ Lebanon

Circa: 100 BC to 200 AD

Dimensions: 1.75" (4.4cm) high x 3.45" (8.8cm) wide

£6,000.00



The wrinkled surface and the colour of this vessel combine to give a naturalistic representation of a dried date. Small mould-blown flasks of this type were common in the first and second centuries A.D and have been found across the Roman Empire. This vessel would have been blown into a two- part mould of two vertical sections, it is of a brown colour, the rim is rounded, the neck is short. The relief patterns consist of short wavy ridges imitating the wrinkles of the skin of a ripe date. Flasks of this kind would have been probably made to store perfume

Roman Glass Date-Shaped Flask - GF.336

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 2nd Century AD

Dimensions: 2,5" (112349.3cm) high

£3,600.00



Where once this delicate vessel was filled with rare fragrance, today it contains only the seductive perfume of mystery. Who held it all those centuries ago when the classical world was in full bloom? Did that person admire its fragile beauty without for a moment imagining that the glass would survive long after the Roman Empire had vanished? When we also are drawn to the lovely shape and colours of this flask, we are linked directly to that ancient life.

Roman Manganese Purple Mold Blown Glass Flask - GE0111

Origin: Sidon, Lebanon

Circa: 100 AD to 200 AD

Dimensions: 3.25" (8.3cm) high

£2,400.00



The wrinkled surface and the colour of this vessel combine to give a naturalistic representation of a dried date. Small mould-blown flasks of this type were common in the first and second centuries A.D and have been found across the Roman Empire.

This vessel would have been blown into a two- part mould of two vertical sections, it is of a cream colour, the rim is rounded, the neck is short. The relief patterns consist of short wavy ridges imitating the wrinkles of the skin of a ripe date. Flasks of this kind would have been probably made to store perfume.

Roman Glass Date-Shaped Flask - SF.276

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 2nd Century AD

Dimensions: 2.75" (7.0cm) high

£3,000.00



Large Honey Colour Glass Vessel - BB.1090

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 9" (22.9cm) high x 4.5" (11.4cm) wide

£18,500.00



Roman Honey Glass Flask - BB.1113

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.9" (9.9cm) high

£1,200.00







Roman Glass Bottle - BB.1612
Origin: Bethlehem
Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD
Dimensions: 9.8" (24.9cm) high

£2,800.00



Green Glass Jug - BB.1094

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 5.4" (13.7cm) high

£2,000.00





Roman Pale Blue Glass Vase - BB.1611

Origin: Mediterranean/ Israel

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 9.8" (24.9cm) high

£2,500.00





Roman Glass Ribbed Cup - tahe.0037

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 2.36" (6.0cm) high x 2.98" (7.6cm) depth

\$1,200.00



Roman Glass Jar - taher.0038

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 2.26" (5.7cm) high x 3.21" (8.2cm) wide

\$1,800.00

Roman Pale Green Glass Vessel - BB.1100

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.7" (17.0cm) high x 3.3" (8.4cm) wide

£6,500.00





Roman Glass Bottle - BB.1610

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 6.7" (17.0cm) high

£1,200.00



Roman Glass Bottle - BB.1603

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 7.1" (18.0cm) high

£900.00





Roman Pale Blue Glass Vase - BB.1608

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 10" (25.4cm) high

£2,850.00



Roman Glass Jar - BB.1112

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.1" (7.9cm) high x 3.1" (7.9cm) wide

£600.00



Roman glass flask - BB.1605

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

£450.00



Pale Blue Glass Bottle - BB.1097

Origin: Mediterranean/Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.7" (17.0cm) high

£1,800.00



Roman Glass Bottle - BB.1602

Origin: Jericho

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

£1,800.00



Roman period pale green glass vessel - BB.1102

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 5.9" (15.0cm) high x 3.1" (7.9cm) wide

£4,500.00



Roman glass objects have been recovered from all across the Roman Empire in domestic, industrial and funerary contexts. Glass was used primarily for the production of vessels, although mosaic tiles and window glass were also produced. Roman glass production is primarily based and has developed from Hellenistic technical traditions, initially concentrating on the production of intensely coloured cast glass vessels. However, during the 1st century AD the industry underwent rapid technical growth that saw the introduction of glass blowing and the predominance of colourless or 'aqua' glasses. Production of raw glass was undertaken in geographically separate locations to the working of glass into finished vessels and by the end of the 1st century AD large scale manufacturing resulted in the establishment of glass as a commonly available material in the Roman world, and one which also had technically very difficult specialized types of luxury glass, which must have been very expensive.





Roman Glass Jug - SF260

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 7.8" (19.8cm) high x 4.6" (11.7cm) wide

£6,500.00



Roman Glass Flask - BB.1607

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

£800.00



Late Roman Glass Vase with Applied Decoration - BB.1116

Origin: Mediterranean/ Israel

Circa: 100 AD to 400 AD

Dimensions: 4.3" (10.9cm) high

£800.00



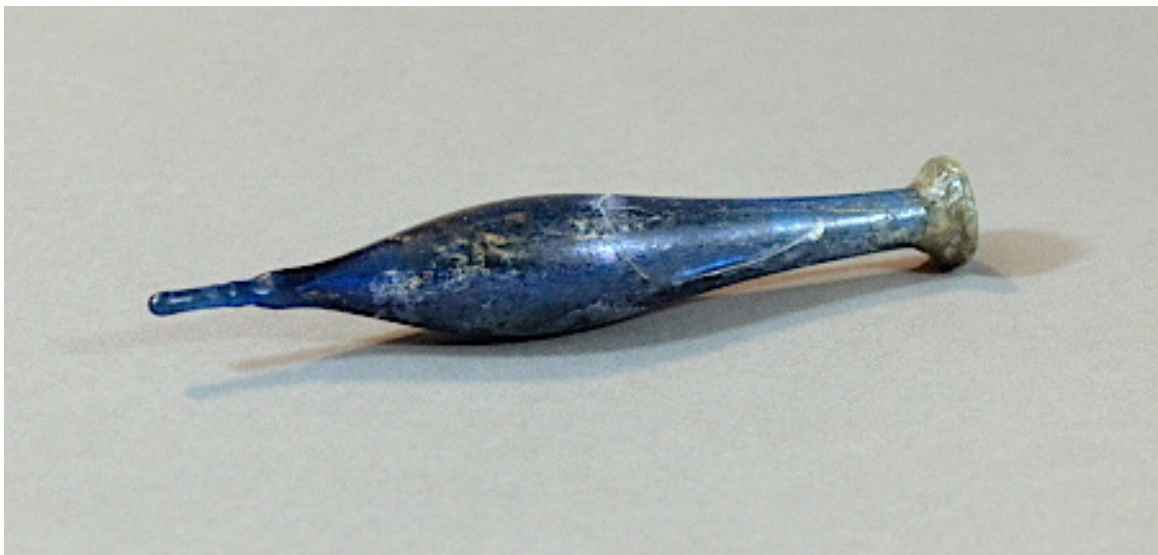
Roman Blue/Green Glass Vessel - BB.1110

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 2.5" (6.4cm) wide

£600.00



Cobalt blue cosmetic glass flask - HB.033

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 5" (12.7cm) high

£600.00



Roman Glass Perfume Flask - BB.1115

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 5.5" (14.0cm) high

£450.00



Roman Small Olive Green Glass Jar - BB.1104

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 400 AD

Dimensions: 2.7" (6.9cm) high

£240.00





Roman Glass Bottle - BB.1602

Origin: Jericho

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

£1,800.00



Green Glass Jar with Two handles - BB.1106

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 2.7" (6.9cm) high

£2,200.00



Green Glass Vessel - OF.151

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.4" (16.3cm) high

£6,400.00





Roman Glass Vessel - SF285

Origin: Mediterranean/Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.1" (7.9cm) high x 2.4" (6.1cm) wide

£900.00





Pale Green Glass Vessel - SF.279

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6.75" (17.1cm) high x 3.5" (8.9cm) wide

£3,000.00



Roman Glass Jar - SF275

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 2.75" (7.0cm) high x 2.75" (7.0cm) wide

£800.00



Glass Vial - SF.284

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high

£400.00





Roman Glass Beaker - SF.282

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 4.75" (12.1cm) high x 3" (7.6cm) wide

£1,800.00



Roman Glass Beaker - SF280

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 4.25" (10.8cm) high x 3" (7.6cm) wide

£1,500.00





Pale Green Globular Vessel with Two Handles - SF286

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.1" (7.9cm) high x 3" (7.6cm) wide

£7,600.00

Blue/Green Glass Vessel - SF.281

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.75" (9.5cm) high x 4.1" (10.4cm) wide

£7,600.00







Glass Bottle - SF.266

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 6" (15.2cm) high x 3.3" (8.4cm) wide

£9,000.00



Small Brown Glass Vessel - SF.274

Origin: Mediterranean/ Jerusalem

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 2.1" (5.3cm) high x 2.2" (5.6cm) wide

£1,800.00



Pale Green Glass Pitcher - SF.283

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 5" (12.7cm) high x 3.25" (8.3cm) wide

£1,500.00





Iridescent Glass Vessel - SF288

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.6" (9.1cm) high x 3.25" (8.3cm) wide

£3,600.00



Glass Jar with Applied Decoration - SE278

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 3.1" (7.9cm) high x 3.2" (8.1cm) wide

£12,500.00







Roman Glass Flask - SF.287

*Origin: Mediterranean
Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD*

£1,800.00



Roman Pale Blue Glass Amphora - BB.1623

Origin: Jerusalem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 4.9" (12.4cm) high

£1,200.00



This highly stylized vessel appears to represent a bunch of grapes. It has a vertical rim and a prominent ridge below, the long neck is cylindrical and a sloping ring folded in. The body of the bottle is oval and is entirely covered with a pattern of knobs.

Roman Grape Glass Flask - FF.046

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 100 BC to 300 AD

Dimensions: 4.8" (12.2cm) high x 2.5" (6.4cm) wide

£8,500.00



Roman Glass Jar with Three Handles - SF.270

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 3.9" (9.9cm) high x 3.9" (9.9cm) wide

£3,000.00





Roman Glass Vessel - FF.066

Origin: Hebron

Circa: 100 AD to 300 AD

Dimensions: 10.25" (26.0cm) high

£36,000.00







Roman Glass Cylindrical Jug with Applied Handle - BB.1613

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 7.6" (19.3cm) high

£4,000.00



Such jugs were produced for the transport and storage of liquids early on. Vessels as such would have had thick walls and strong handles.

The jug has a cylindrical body and an applied handle. The rim is out-splayed and the lip rounded. The neck is cylindrical with a tapering at the top. The strap handle is applied on the bottle.

Jugs of this type were found around the eastern and western Roman Empire.





Roman Glass Tube - SF.259

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 1st Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 14" (35.6cm) high x 2.75" (7.0cm) wide

£6,500.00



Pale Green Glass Vessel with Two Handles - SF269

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 100 AD to 400 AD

Dimensions: 4.2" (10.7cm) high x 3.9" (9.9cm) wide

£4,500.00



Roman Glass Jar with Two Handles - X.0614

Origin: Syro-Palestine

Circa: 100 AD to 600 AD

Dimensions: 3.25" (8.3cm) high x 3.5" (8.9cm) wide

£5,600.00



The olive green small glass jar features two coil handles applied to the shoulder, attached to the edge of the rim and pressed down against the rim coil. On the exterior large areas covered by weathering and iridescence. The rim rounded in flame with narrow cut-out collar, funnel mouth, gently sloping shoulder and globular body with slightly kicked base. On the lower body, straight threads spiralling up in eleven revolutions, some crossing back and forth over the next one. This type of relief decoration, popular between the 4th and the 7th century CE, was applied shortly before the vessel was completed to avoid reheats that might cause the threads to melt flush with the surface.

In terms of forms, Syria and Palestine between the 3rd and 5th century developed an unrivalled diversity of individual shapes, including characteristic jars such as the one here illustrated, whose shape remained largely unknown in the West. In the Syro-Palestine area this type of glass jars was widely used in the late Roman and Byzantine periods. The body was usually bulbous and flat-bottomed or with a slightly concave base. Many jars also featured a relatively tall funnel mouth with just below the edge of the rim a decorative rim coil or cut-out fold, also known as projecting roll or cut-out collar rim.

The presence of the projecting roll in our jar is an indication that the vessel was not used for drinking or pouring liquids, because the open fold would have trapped the liquid. Its use is still debatable but a plain, two-handled jar with a projecting roll below the rim, discovered in a burial at Giv'at Sharet, Israel, indeed contained traces of cannabis, used in antiquity for medicinal purposes. On the other hand, evidence from an Egyptian excavation, would purport the idea of a more mundane usage as tableware.

Whatever its original function, this beautifully preserved iridescent jar speaks out of a long-gone period of cultural thrive that the Eastern Mediterranean enjoyed during the early centuries of the Common Era, a fragile -yet unsurpassed- reminder of the beauty and craftsmanship achieved by Near Eastern glass workers in ancient times.



Roman Glass Jug - DAC.075

Origin: Israel

Circa: 2nd Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 8.25" (21.0cm) high

£9,000.00



It was during the Roman period that the technique of glassblowing was first perfected, and translucent, jewel-like colour was first added. This lovely vessel, the colour of the sunlit Mediterranean, makes superb use of both innovations. What might it have contained when the Roman Empire was in its glory? Sweet oils? Fragrant attars? Precious balms? Surely the contents must have been something rare and costly to deserve so lovely a vessel. Today it seems filled with the elusive perfume of imagination.



Roman Glass Tube - BB.1615

Origin: Jerusalem

Circa: 2nd Century AD to 4th Century AD

Dimensions: 7.3" (18.5cm) high

£1,200.00



Roman Green Glass Jar - SF271

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 2nd Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 3.25" (8.3cm) high x 3.1" (7.9cm) wide

£500.00



Juglet, mould-blown green glass; it has the shape of a down-turned pear, with a collar on its upper part, a somewhat tall opening neck with an angular handle. Egypt or Eastern Mediterranean, most likely Roman,

Roman Glass Vial with Handle - JB.1375

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century AD to 4th Century AD

Dimensions: 3.14" (8cm) high

£400.00



The body is blown into a two-part mould of two vertical sections, probably open at the base. The mould is concealed in the hair at the junction of the heads. The neck is cylindrical and the rim is everted.

Head-shaped flasks appear in the Greek ceramic repertoire starting in the Archaic period. The method of mould-blowing proved particularly suited to the manufacture of vessels of this type.

Roman Double-Head Glass Flask - SF265

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 2nd Century AD to 3rd Century AD

Dimensions: 3.1" (7.9cm) high x 2" (5.1cm) wide

£5,000.00



Blue Glass Vessel with Applied Decoration - BB.1118

Circa: 200 AD to 400 AD

Dimensions: 3.5" (8.9cm) high x 3" (7.6cm) wide

£6,000.00





The greenish glass flask with lenticular body, short neck and thick tubular rim folded inward, with no base, traces of tooling and pontil mark. Two handles in darker green colour rising from the shoulder and attached above the rim, each with a projection folded outward. Heavy weathering crust and iridescence throughout.

The shape of these vessels, already found in ceramic prototypes of the 2nd millennium BC, was especially easy to produce in blown glass, since it could be simply achieved by flattening a globular bubble. These plain flasks usually lack bases and handles and they were probably provided with special carrying cases of leather, straw or cloth to protect them during transport and which could be tied with handles so that the flask could be suspended.

The lenticular flasks were used to hold liquids, but the miniature ones, such as this one, were used for perfumes and costly oils; indeed an excavated example from Apamea, Syria, yielded traces of holy oil in it. In the 3rd and 4th centuries, lenticular flasks acquired handles and sometimes even bases.

Small Glass Lenticular Flask - LO.942

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 300 AD to 400 AD

Dimensions: 4" (10.2cm) high x 3.50" (8.9cm) wide

£4,000.00



Light bluish juglet featuring a tall square body with slightly concave base, slightly sunken shoulder, cylindrical neck with ledged rim folded inward. A wide handle ribbed lengthwise rising vertically from the shoulder attached to the upper part of the neck. The surface showing cloudiness, weathering and iridescence.

Despite their relative fragility, glass containers were produced for the transport and storage of liquids from very early on. Such vessels have thick walls, convenient handles, their bodies are usually cylindrical or square. The handles do not protrude beyond the walls, making it possible to pack and store the jugs tightly. Square vessels such as this one could be packed and stored with an even greater economy of space than the cylindrical ones. These were either blown in moulds or free-blown, the body shaped on the marver by flattening. Though it is normally assumed that this type of jars served mainly for the transport and storage of liquids, since they were considered quality containers in their right own, often were they reused even in funerary contexts, especially in western Europe.

Square Glass Juglet - LO.945

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 200 AD to 500 AD

Dimensions: 5.8" (14.7cm) high x 3" (7.6cm) wide

£5,000.00



Glass Jar - LO.899

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 300 AD to 600 AD

Dimensions: 4.825" (12.3cm) high

£25,000.00



Extremely light and delicate amphora shaped vessel with slightly rounded conical body, pointed drop-shaped base, convex shoulder, short neck and flaring folded rim. Two handles applied from shoulder to below the rim. Containers of this type, which reproduce the same shape as larger terracotta amphorae used throughout antiquity to store and transport liquids (especially wine), belong to a well-known class of miniature amphorae of similar hue with the same decorative technique.

Very popular in the 3rd and 4th century A.D. throughout the Roman Empire – several have been found in the Near East (Syria and Egypt) as well as in Western Europe – this particular piece comes from Jerusalem Used in different forms since the 2nd millennium B.C., glass definitely replaced clay as the raw material of choice for the manufacture of containers in all areas of daily life towards the end of the Hellenistic period. This event, which occurred gradually, is to be considered a major technological revolution of antiquity. With a versatility like no other known material in Roman times, abundant availability and lightness and ease of use, glass enabled the imitation of a wide range of other materials (especially precious metals), whether in the form, the design or the colour. Furthermore - and the ancients had certainly noticed this fact - glass is a chemically neutral substance, what makes it particularly suitable for the storage of food, but also of cosmetics or pharmaceutical products.

Roman turquoise green glass Amphora shaped vessel - BB.1621

Origin: Jerusalem

Circa: 3rd Century AD to 4th Century AD

Dimensions: 4.3" (10.9cm) high

£1,400.00



Small Glass Juglet - LO.941

Origin: Israel

Circa: 300 AD to 700 AD

£1,200.00



With darker aubergine swirls, the cylindrical neck with cut-off mouth, the pear shaped body with four large indentations, the neck cut down in antiquity, some lilac iridescence.

Roman Purple Glass Flask - LK.173

Origin: Eastern Mediterranean

Circa: 4th Century AD to 5th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.5" (16.5cm) high

£2,400.00

Double Cosmetic Glass Tube

Vessels such as these following are believed to have been used to store and apply kohl, a paste made of galena (antimony trisulphide Sb), brown ochre and sometimes malachite that was used as eye makeup. Indeed, the kohl tube is one of the most easily recognizable types of ancient glass vessels. The body is in the shape of two tube connected by a common wall and a flat base. Two handles rise from the middle of the body to the rim. The decoration consists of a trail wound around the middle part of the body. Two handles rise from the middle of the body to the rim, where they are linked by a basket handle.

These special containers have been found mainly in tombs dating to the Byzantine period. Some were found with traces of the makeup preserved inside or, more frequently, with a small stick of bronze, glass or bone used as applicator. Kohl tubes have been found in abundance in Palestine, in a larger number than in neighbouring countries and they may be considered a local type. The fact that this vessel consist of two tubes suggests that it could have been used to store two different colours of makeup.

Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - SF261

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 7.5" (19.1cm) high x 2.75" (7.0cm) wide

£4,500.00





Glass Tube - BB.1628

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 7.8" (19.8cm) high

£2,500.00



Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - BB.1620

Origin: Jerusalem

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

\$2,400.00



Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - BB.1626

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 4.3" (10.9cm) high

£1,500.00



Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - BB.1618

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high

£1,200.00



Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - BB.1600

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.3" (16.0cm) high

£1,400.00



Roman Double Cosmetic Glass Tube - BB.1625

Origin: Bethlehem

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.3" (16.0cm) high

£500.00



Roman Glass Tube - BB.1624

Origin: Mediterranean

Circa: 4th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 7.2" (18.3cm) high

£900.00



Roman Glass Amphoriskos - BB.1098

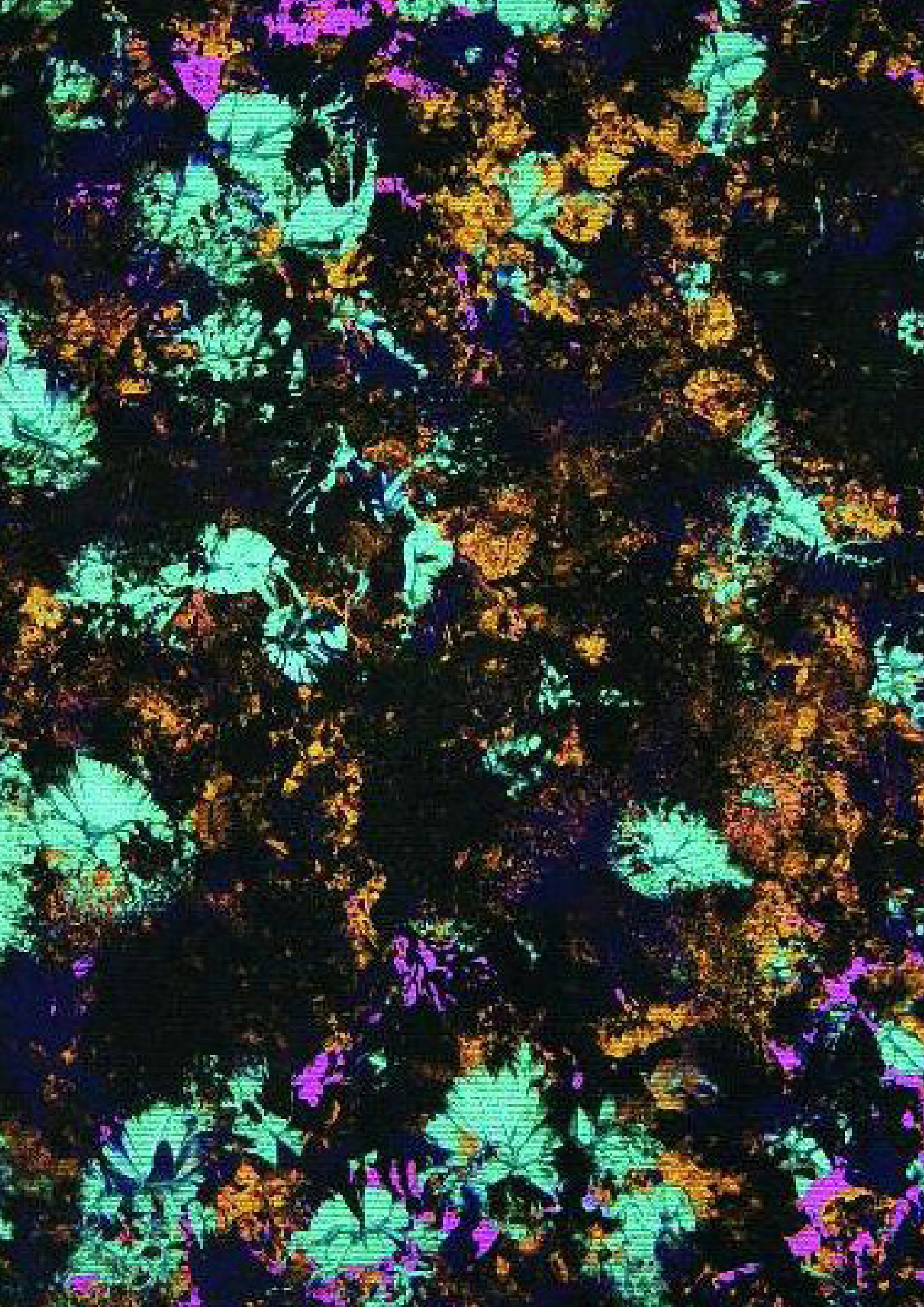
Origin: Jerusalem

Circa: 5th Century AD to 6th Century AD

Dimensions: 4.1" (10.4cm) high

£2,500.00





ISLAMIC GLASS



Glass Jug - AD.001

The glass industry in the Early Islamic Period can initially be characterized as a continuation of older traditions. Following the rise of the Abbasid Caliphate in 750 AD, the capital of the Islamic world was moved from levantine Damascus to Baghdad in Mesopotamia. This led to a cultural shift away from the influences of Classical traditions, and allowed for the development of a more pure 'Islamic' expression, which nevertheless drew inspiration from the late Sasanian tradition. An interesting example of an element inspired by the Sasanian heritage is the so-called 'facet- cut decoration', a decoration created by grinding the curved surface of the glass vessel with slightly convex curring wheels to produce areas that are flat or somewhat concave. These facets are invariably circular or oval on Islamic vessels. When particularly deep, these cuts provide an overall effect called "honeycomb" pattern. The decoration is sometimes called a "quincunx" pattern of the round facets are contiguous but to do overlap.

The transition from the Sasanian to the Islamic culture, and how this was reflected in glass-making, is a topic of immense scholarly interest due to the lack of archaeological evidence in the Irano- Mesopotamian area during the proto-Islamic period.



The culture that created this lovely vase has vanished into time, leaving behind only tantalizing clues like this. Behind this delicate glass--whose survival seems a whim of fate--there is no doubt a history filled with human dreams and passions, though we can only guess at the truth. Still, when we gaze upon this vessel with pleasure, we are surely sharing something specific with a person who lived long ago.

Small jar, free-blown green glass with trailed decoration. The globular body has a short, waisted widely opening neck with an everted and rim and rests on an attached ring with a deeply sunken concave base.. The body has four trailed H- shaped designs and a horizontal band running around the shoulder.



Islamic Olive Green Glass Flask - GF0039

Origin: Jericho, Israel

Circa: 7th Century AD to 8th Century AD

Dimensions: 2.75" (7.0cm) high

£3,500.00



Glass Jar - AD.018

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 700 AD to 900 AD

Dimensions: 2.9" (7.4cm) high

£5,000.00



Islamic Glass Pitcher - LO.913

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 7th Century AD to 9th Century AD

Dimensions: 6.1" (15.5cm) high x 4.5" (11.4cm) wide

£18,000.00



This almost globular pitcher of translucent greyish colourless glass, a shape often encountered in the Islamic world, has a large tall and flared neck, a L-shaped handle attached at the opening of the shoulder and a double pointed thumb rest at the top. On the slightly depressed globular body, the decoration consists of two rows of 20 circular facets which were scooped away at even close interval to produce a honeycomb pattern. Above, two grooved lines forming a collar on the shoulder.

This pitcher belongs to a group of glass objects produced in the Iranian or Mesopotamian areas from the 8th to the 10th century using a facet-cut decoration – that is a decoration created by grinding the curved surface of the glass vessel with slightly convex curving wheels to produce areas that are flat or somewhat concave. These facets are invariably circular or oval on Islamic vessels. When particularly deep, these cuts provide an overall effect called “honeycomb” pattern. The decoration is sometimes called a “quincunx” pattern of the round facets are contiguous but do not overlap. Their inspiration lies in the late Sasanian tradition. At present a gap exists -from the 6th to the 8th century- during which faceting does not appear on Islamic glassware, due to the lack of archaeological evidence in the Irano- Mesopotamian area during the proto-Islamic period.



Islamic Iridescent Glass Bottle - GF.0088

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 7th Century AD to 9th Century AD

Dimensions: 4.7" (11.9cm) high x 5.1" (13.0cm) wide

£18,000.00



Small bottle, free-blown green glass with a spherical body, resting on a flat base; the short cylindrical neck terminates in an everted flat rim. The glass industry in the Early Islamic Period can initially be characterized as a continuation of older traditions. Following the rise of the Abbasid Caliphate in 750 AD, the capital of the Islamic world was moved from levantine Damascus to Baghdad in Mesopotamia. This led to a cultural shift away from the influences of Classical traditions, and allowed for the development of an more pure 'Islamic' expression. The iridescence on ancient glass was unintentional, unlike what is found on modern Tiffany, Loetz and Steuben glass. Caused by weathering on the surface, the iridescence and the interplay of lustrous colours, is due to the refraction of light by thin layers of weathered glass. How much a glass object weathers depends mainly on its burial conditions and to a lesser extent to the chemical components it was made of. Iridescence may also be conditioned by humidity, heat and the type of soil the glass was buried in.



Glass Bottle - JB.1365

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 800 AD to 1100 AD

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 2.16" (5.5cm) wide

£2,500.00



Although weathering due to burial often prevents a full appreciation of the chromatic as well as the sculptural appeal of a glass vessel, many have survived in excellent condition and still convey a playful charm. Globular bottles and vases, small flasks and ewers were the favoured shapes during the Islamic period. The decorative elements often took on regular circular forms (discs, roundels, ovals, prunts). The majority of such vessels were decorated with applied glass of the same colour since the shape and distribution on the surface would be sufficient to emphasize the ornamental pattern.

Glass Bottle - JB.1365

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 800 AD to 1100 AD

Dimensions: 3" (7.6cm) high x 2.16" (5.5cm) wide

£2,500.00



Glass Jug - AD.002

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 9th Century AD to 10th Century AD

Dimensions: 5.98" (15.2cm) high

£30,000.00



Glass Jug - AD.001

*Origin: Eastern Mediterranean
Circa: 9th Century AD to 12th Century AD
Dimensions: 5.98" (15.2cm) high*

£25,000.00



Glass Bottle - AD.009

Origin: Central Asia

Circa: 10th Century AD to 11th Century AD

Dimensions: 3.4" (8.6cm) high

£9,000.00



Small Brown Glass Vessel - SF274

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